

**310 Plan**  
**April 2007 – April 2010**

**Board Name:** TriCounty MR/DD Board

**County(ies) Served:** Walker, Fayette, and Lamar

**Description of Services/Support Provided :** Targeted Case Management, Personal Care, Residential and Advocacy

**Population(s) Served:**

Description – individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Ethnicity: Predominantly black and white.

Demographics – Birth – three years.....Early Intervention (Approximately 120 served in Fayette and Lamar Counties)

All over the age of three .....Children and Adult Services (Approximately 200 served by TriCounty.)

**Mission Statement:** To provide assistance to individuals that they may reside in their least restrictive environment in the community with necessary supports.

**Vision Statement:** To be able to offer individuals and their family choices of service providers that best meet their needs. To be able to develop the most appropriate service for the individual. Cooperative interagency efforts towards attaining goals of the individual.

**Description of Planning Cycle:** Three Years

**Planning Cycle Timeframe:** April 2007 – April 2010

**Key Stakeholders & Roles:** Individual with intellectual/developmental disability, family and/or caregivers, case manager, service provider staff members, friends, health care community. All consumers/families are requested to complete an annual survey re: satisfaction with services being provided and needs for services yet to be developed. Local needs are discussed and evaluated at all staff meetings, person-centered planning meetings and board of directors meetings. There are family members on the board of directors. Case Managers are encouraged to monitor consumer needs, wants and desires regularly during their program and home visits.

**Method of Needs Assessment:** The person/family/caregiver statement of need, Case Management needs assessment documents, caregiver observation, program staff observation, medical community assessments.

**Greatest Area(s) of Unmet Needs:** Availability of waiver slots and the funding to support, transportation, lack of available nurses that are MAS trained, Children's service providers, emergency residential placements.

**Needed Expansions:** Respite providers, transportation, temporary emergency placements, 'AL Waiting List reduction', seniors with intellectual disabilities services.

**Current Funding Resources:** Medicaid, ADRS, Walker Foundation grant, private donations

**Future Funding Resources:** Same as above

**TriCounty MR/DD Board, Inc.**  
**Sept. 2009**

**Three Goals/Objectives:**

- 1. To be able to reach all individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities in our catchment area and offer assistance with accessing services they need.**
- 2. To work cooperatively with other service providers and social service organizations in order to meet the goals of the individuals/families.**
- 3. Community Education re: intellectual/developmental disabilities**

**Plan Monitoring & Evaluation: Quarterly by Quality Assurance staff, Case Management staff, Board of Directors**

## Family and Consumer Support Groups

1 of 2

- + ARC
- + Individual and Family Support Councils- meet monthly, provides funding to families
- + Fayette and Walker counties have People First groups (People First has a website)
- + Independent Living Center of Jasper
- Individual and Family Support Councils have limited budgets
- Lack of summer programs for school-aged children.

## Emergency and Respite Care

- + Daybreak has services for abuse situations
- Very limited
- No acute ER care
- Need more respite care

## Residential Care

- + 6 beds available through Tri County- have 1 vacancy
- + 37 beds available through ARC of Walker County
- + 24 homes (60 beds: includes 2 respite beds & 2 vacancies) available through the ARC of Fayette, Lamar and Marengo Counties
- + 75 beds available through NWMHC
- Have a waiting list
- Facilities may not match the needs of the individual
- Sometimes the individual on the waiting list does not fit with residential availability
- Need placement for adolescents with behavioral issues
- Need co-occurring facility
- 8 to 10 individuals right now need residential services
- Individuals on medication have difficult time getting residential care

## Case Management

- + Several case managers have long tenure- 10+ years
- + Case Managers are very strong advocates for the consumer/family.
- + Stability for case managers
- Caseloads are high
- Case Management services are non-reimbursable until consumer is placed on a waiver.

## Support Services

- + Three day programs in Walker County
- + At least two day programs in every county
- + The Arc of Walker County has 40 individuals receiving supported employment.
- + Employers call for referrals asking for employees
- + An average of 40 individuals are employed through the ARC of Fayette, Lamar and Marengo
- + TriCounty supports 39 individuals with Personal Care Services
- + City of Jasper has fixed route for daytime; there is a fixed weekend route
- + NWMHC has 100 vehicles- 85 vans to serve clients

- Five are on the waiting list for employment
- Transportation for work is needed
- There is no reimbursement for transportation
- No transportation available for the rural areas
- Very expensive to provide transportation
- Case management transportation is not billable
- There are people on the waiting list waiting for a day program slot to come available
- There are people on the waiting list waiting for support services.

## **Knight, Acquanetta**

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**From:** Vilamaa, Michelle  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2009 9:50 AM  
**To:** Knight, Acquanetta  
**Cc:** 'Linda Bender'  
**Subject:** RE: Tri County MRDD 2007 Needs Assessment  
**Attachments:** 12-18-07 Northwest and Tri County MI-SA-ID(Fayette Lamar Winston Marion Walker).doc

Absolutely. My documentation indicates that Tri County conducted local needs assessment in conjunction with Northwest Mental Health Center in 2007. Attached are the comments collected from that meeting.

Michelle Vilamaa  
Department of Mental Health  
Office of Policy and Planning

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**From:** Knight, Acquanetta  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 12, 2009 2:31 PM  
**To:** Vilamaa, Michelle  
**Cc:** 'Linda Bender'  
**Subject:** Tri County MRDD 2007 Needs Assessment  
**Importance:** High

Michelle,

When you have a moment, will you please provide Linda Bender the results of her 2007 Needs Assessment for the Tri County MRDD Board?

Thanks,  
Acquanetta

9/19/2009

# **Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center**

## **Local Needs Assessment Issues**

12-18-2007

Winfield, Alabama (Fayette, Winston, Lamar, Marion, Walker)

### **Mental Illness Services**

#### **Family and Consumer Support Groups**

- + NAMI Winston County- Helps Marion County

#### **Emergency/Acute Care/Respite Care**

- + There is an after hours hotline
- + There are 24 acute beds available at Baptist Hospital that Northwest MH Center manages

#### **Residential Care**

- + Have one of the best forensic hospitals
- + Assist people and admit them into programs regardless of their ability to pay
- Need forensic beds in the community
- Need more variety of specialized group homes
- Would like to see plan to relocate Bryce services
- No juvenile residential programs

#### **Case Management**

No comments given for MI

#### **Support Services**

- + There are outpatient offices in all five counties
- + Access to psychiatrist in all five counties
- + There are children's services and individual therapy available
- + Accessibility of services- within 20 miles of home
- + Day programs are in every county and are person centered
- + There is a partial hospitalization program in every county
- + Indigent care is provided
- + There are 225 MI beds- most are specialized behavioral
- + 50 apartments through HUD
- Reimbursement for services
- Reimbursement for day programs
- Feds going to rehab/medical model; state is person centered
- Affordability of quality housing
- Shelters are unavailable in this area

#### **Workforce**

- + 1 full time psychiatrist available
- + Adult and Child and Adolescent psychiatrist available in every location at least twice a month, sometimes weekly
- + NAMI raising funds to help pay for dental services
- + All training is done in house; some are done by the regional offices

- + Beville State and the Mental Health Association is collaborating to provide a six week program that will train direct care workers for mental health centers; they will use training curricula of the mental health center and the dept.'s standards
- Hard to find case managers and pay them
- Not many people are willing to work with the individuals served by NWMHC
- Staff do not make enough money
- Can't recruit college students because they can make more money elsewhere
- Have to import psychiatrists and psychologists
- Have trouble finding dentists to work with more difficult cases
- The training that is done for staff needs to be more process oriented and less talk
- Communication between the Dept. and the community regarding training standards needs improving
- Need more direct care workers; having to pay a lot of overtime
- High burnout factor
- There has been an increase in the minimum wage, but no increase in funding to offset the increase

#### **Commitment Process**

- + Great relationship with probate judge
- + Have liaison who works with hospitals, jails and behavioral med unit
- + Have emergency after hours contact in every county that helps keep people out of the hospital
- Need more training for law enforcement
- If they have substance abuse issues, like meth, nobody will commit and they end up in jail
- There is no commitment process for substance abuse

#### **Coordination Among Agencies**

- + Work well with courts and judges

#### **Other**

- Need money for facility improvements
- Need more children's services and summer programs for children

# **Substance Abuse Services**

## **Family and Consumer Support Groups**

- + AA, NA available; 1 group in Marion County
- + Walker County gives notice of the meetings
- Need more meeting times for groups
- Need more awareness of the meetings

## **Emergency and Respite Care**

- + NWMHC provides follow up services to individuals in the hospital

## **Residential Care**

- + NWMHC has an adolescent facility
- + NWMHC recently added co-occurring services
- There is a 6 to 12 week waiting list for a residential bed
- There is no facility to serve women with children
- No SA Services for MR clients
- Need co-occurring facility
- 8 to 10 individuals right now need residential services
- Individuals on medication have difficult time getting residential care

## **Case Management**

- Case management is not funded for substance abuse
- Case management is needed to assist therapists with follow up

## **Support Services**

- + There are outpatient offices in all five counties
- Affordability of quality housing
- People with SA cannot qualify for Section 8 housing
- Need supported housing/halfway housing
- No shelters available in the area
- Driver's License pulled for charge- makes it difficult for individuals to work without transportation services available



# **Mental Retardation Services**

## **Family and Consumer Support Groups**

- + ARC
- + Individual and Family Support Councils- meet monthly, provides funding to families
- + Fayette and Walker counties have People First groups (People First has a website)
- + Independent Living Center of Jasper
- Individual and Family Support Councils have limited budgets

## **Emergency and Respite Care**

- + Daybreak has services for abuse situations
- Very limited
- No acute ER care
- Need more respite care

## **Residential Care**

- + 6 beds available through Tri County- have 1 vacancy
- + 32 beds available through ARC of Walker County
- + 16 homes (44 beds) available through the ARC of Fayette, Lamar and Marengo Counties
- + 75 beds available through NWMHC
- Have a waiting list
- Facilities may not match the needs of the individual
- Sometimes the individual on the waiting list does not fit with residential availability
- Need placement for adolescents with behavioral issues
- Need co-occurring facility
- 8 to 10 individuals right now need residential services
- Individuals on medication have difficult time getting residential care

## **Case Management**

- + Several case managers have long tenure- 10+ years
- + Stability for case managers
- Caseloads are high

## **Support Services**

- + Three day programs in Walker County
- + At least two day programs in every county
- + Placed 23 individuals with employment within the past year- Total # employed- 40-50
- + Employers call for referrals asking for employees
- + Thirty individuals are employed through the ARC of Fayette, Lamar and Marengo
- + Sixteen are employed in Winston County through ARC Sunrise Center
- + City of Jasper has fixed route for daytime; there is a fixed weekend route
- + NWMHC has 100 vehicles- 85 vans to serve clients
- Five are on the waiting list for employment
- Transportation for work is needed
- There is no reimbursement for transportation
- No transportation available for the rural areas
- Very expensive to provide transportation
- Case management transportation is not billable
- There are people on the waiting list waiting for a day program slot to come available